

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Carter Caplinger. I am a student from Manchester. I am documented but I support those who are not and believe they should have access to a basic human right: Health care.

I stand in support of S.B. No. 284: “AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS,” with clear language that extends eligibility to all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

I have lived in Manchester, Connecticut my entire life, 17 years. I have had the experience of having health insurance coverage through my parents who have an opportunity to work. I understand that some people have not been as lucky to have this same circumstance and medical coverage. This bill is so important to give equitable coverage to all, including the children who need access to mental health services and wellness.

Although I may not have had any personal experiences with healthcare- at least none I know of, I do know people who have had their worries and experiences with it. Several people I know have expressed their fear during this pandemic of what they could do in the case they or their family got Covid. This also brings up mental health, as thinking of these possibilities can easily make someone feel stressed out. I also have a few friends who struggle with depression and anxiety and they have stated that sometimes the care they receive is not adequate and needs improvement.

This bill is important to ensure that all children have access to the services they need. During the past two years and living through the pandemic, not all children had the opportunity to access necessary services. While I shared that my family has access to insurance, this should not be a privilege. It is a right to ensure that all children have access to medical and mental health and wellness through insurance. If this bill is not funded, there will be children that continue to unnecessarily struggle for something that should be provided.

I support S.B. No 284, with clear language to extend current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status, and I ask the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time,
Carter Caplinger